

MINUTES of a Meeting of the FoBRA Committee
on Thursday 10th September 2015 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School
 Circulated in draft on 8/10/15 and deemed accepted on 15/10/15

1 a. **Welcome** by Robin Kerr, Chairman, to 25 representatives and observers – see back page.

b. Admissions to membership:

i) **Batheaston Forward** – following a Committee decision in principle in March, it was agreed to admit this Association, from just beyond the Bath boundary, to affiliate membership under Rule 3 d. Their Chairman Steve Frayling and Secretary Catherine McCarthy spoke briefly of their recent formation and energetic activities.

ii) **Foxhill Residents' Association** – whose Chairman Mike Arkell and Secretary Nola Edwards explained their recent formation and rapid expansion to give a voice to resident opinion in the face of several major issues with the Council and Curo as a developer. Being eligible, the Association was admitted to full membership. If space could be found on a coming agenda, they would be interested in sharing information with the Committee on some of their challenges and to benefit from the longer experience of other residents' representatives.

2 a. **The Minutes** of the meeting on 30th July (circulated 15 Aug) – were approved.

b. Matters arising from the Minutes:

i) **Clarification of procedure** – Following a discussion at the previous meeting, the Secretary recognised that normally all minutes are drafts until approved at the subsequent meeting. However, in view of general use of email and websites, frequent need for swift action, but typically months between meetings, he proposed that our Minutes in future should be taken as accepted a week after the date of circulation if no challenge was outstanding. This was agreed without dissent and he urged any member with a query or proposed correction to get in touch with him at once.

ii) **Subscriptions** status of members: The Treasurer reported that 25 members and affiliates had paid their dues and he hoped to be able to report the remainder had done so before the next meeting on 12th November.

3 a. **Cycle Bath Presentation** – Adam Reynolds, Chairman, gave an interesting talk on the purposes of the organisation and information on how they had worked with the Council to access Government funding for projects to benefit cycling in and around the City and contribute to the overall Transport Strategy to which FoBRA and the Council were committed. He encouraged members to explore the Cycle Bath website <http://cyclebath.org.uk> and answered questions:

Questions / Comments	Answers
Nick Tobin: Spoke of a female cycling sports commentator's aggressive attitude towards pedestrians.	Recognise a distinction between sports and 'every day' cyclists - who often disagree.
Van DuBose: Scarcity of space – any use of case studies from EU?	Can't use Bristol as an example! A priority is to persuade officers to consider cycling input before submitting a proposal for Council.
Nigel Sherwen: Membership of local cycle clubs has doubled in size – see the Utrecht video as an example of how to achieve change.	There are two good videos – for Utrecht: www.itv.com/tourdefrance/features/video-chris-boardman-on-the-dutch-love-affair-with-cycling and Cambridge https://vimeo.com/133736570
Patrick Rotheram: B&NES had a hierarchy with pedestrians and cyclists at the top, but had done little or nothing to give effect to it – The aim must be	Yes

for a centre, largely free of traffic.	
Rachael Hushon: Allow for kids on segregated tracks but not with traffic	Family OK on Bear Flat but not happy for them to cycle down town.
Jan Shepley: A little improvement on Rossiter Road: How is dialogue with the Council?	Varies – we have 76 open issues. Largely satisfactory experience on 13 miles of two tunnels network track shared with pedestrians.

b. Canal Towpath upgrading – Introducing a discussion on the Council’s proposals, the Chairman drew attention to the FAQs. A history of the proposals may be found on the CycleBath website. Several representatives criticised the quality, timing and administration of the consultation arrangements.

Charles Draper (BERA), who was unable to be with us, had written “... improvement is welcome, but the trick is to do so in a way that benefits all users and discourages cyclists from speeding. The CycleBath code of practice is excellent on this, but about 1/3 of cyclists ignore it, and the worry is that this will get worse. Some cyclists on the towpath seem to cycle fast for exercise, or as a rapid commute route, both of which are inappropriate on a busy shared path ... the surface choice; the design; and signage (speed guidance 10 mph max?) should all try to ameliorate this problem. There is also an issue about the surface for the substantial number of runners (of which I am one) who use the path. Grit is more forgiving to the knees than some of the more weatherproof options.” It was agreed the Secretary should forward these comments to the Council.

4 FoBRA Priorities:

a. Reduction of Pollution and Traffic

i) The Chairman reported that these matters topped the agenda when he and the Vice-chairman met the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council on 4th September including: Air pollution and creation of a city centre Low Emission Zone; the link between pollution, traffic, and parking; an implementation plan for the Transport Strategy agreed by the whole Council last year; an A36-A46 link; the Eastern P&R consultation; parking in the city centre and visitor parking permits; ‘quality’ bus contracts and franchising.

ii) Eastern Park and Ride Site: The Council’s long heralded proposals had just been published and Patrick Rotheram’s briefing note, previously circulated with the Chairman’s Report, was generally welcomed. He emphasised that FoBRA strongly supported such a P&R as an essential element in the agreed Bath Transport Strategy.

Patrick felt there was insufficient detailed information available so far to enable a definitive choice of any one particular site but we would tend to favour the one with greatest capacity, capable of later expansion and which could be operated 7 days a week with secure overnight parking.

He reiterated that this development, although crucial in itself, had to be supported by the kind of traffic management measures envisaged in the Strategy. We would also like to see added to the Council’s objective of reducing carbon emissions from transport “reducing air pollution from nitrogen dioxide (NO²) and diesel particulates” which are causing immediate harm to residents. Other practical points were added by representatives from Lansdown Crescent, Camden, Batheaston, and BIGHA.

b. Planning and Development Control

i) The Planning Report had been previously circulated and was adopted. Nick Tobin regretted he had been unable to attend the previous meeting when he would have clarified the recommendations in the paper the PSC had been asked by the Committee in May to write about 43 Upper Oldfield Park. He was surprised and concerned that, since then, some representatives thought FoBRA should not be involved in this matter. He pointed out that, despite time and effort put in, FoBRA had not at any stage issued a public statement and reported that the PSC meeting on 8 August agreed not to

consider this matter further because there was unlikely to be a consensus within the FoBRA Committee.

Mulberry Park: Nick reported that several organisations were concerned that the northern boundary of the huge development appeared to have insufficient tree planting to screen it.

No. 5 St James's Square: In response to recently expressed concern about this proposed development, it was noted that the property had had the same owner since 1858 and been empty for the past 19 years. The time for comments within the planning process had passed, however it was agreed the broader concerns should be reflected in a letter from our Chairman to the Development Management Committee.

ii) **North Quays** Economic development – Van Dubose tabled a paper on Bath Economic Development and updated members on this plan to enable Bath to be an effective competitor with other cities seeking to attract high productivity and high wage firms. B&NES Council owns the land and the Enterprise Area needs to set standards for land use design and occupancy within a devolved West of England region. He thanked FoBRA for its key contribution representing Bath interests to the Council's Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan and felt we had a critical role still to play in monitoring the consistent evolution of the development of this important Enterprise Area.

iii) **North Quays Bridge Design consultation and Aqueye proposal** – members were encouraged to visit the advertised exhibitions and contribute responses to both.

c. Engagement

Visit to MP in Parliament – a Thursday pm – on or after 22 October. The Secretary will circulate details to those who have expressed interest – or do so now.

5 **The Chairman's Report** had been recently circulated. Among matters not already covered were his letter to the *Chronicle* on the structural **inadequacy of the Bath City Forum**; a wish for **feedback / comments** on the threatened closure of **Bath Magistrates' Court** and on the content of **our Website**; and a plea to inform the Secretary of any **changes in officers and representatives for the FoBRA Address List** – an updated version will be circulated soon.

6 **The next meeting is on Thursday 12 November 2015** in Widcombe Junior School. Suggested Agenda items include: Outcome of various Consultations (eg CCG on health in homes and LEZs to include peripheral historic and residential roads); Chairman's Report; Planning Report; Discussion on Foxhill issues; Mayor for B&NES Referendum; Sale of Winter Reception tickets; Suggestions for the following agenda.

7 Forward Dates:

a. **Winter Reception – Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 6.30pm in Victoria Art Gallery.**

b. **Following Committee meeting - Thursday 4 February 2016 Widcombe Junior School.**

End

Details of attendance and apologies on next page

Attendance and apologies

Present:

Robin	Kerr	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Chairman
Nicholas	Tobin	Ainslie's Belvedere & Caroline Place R A	FoBRA V-Chair
Neil	Barnes	LCA	FoBRA Treasurer
Barry	Henderson	Liberty Gardens	FoBRA Secretary
Steve	Frayling	Batheaston Forward	Chairman
Catherine	McCarthy	Batheaston Forward	Secretary
David	Greenwood	Bath Independent Guest Houses Assoc	Representative
Matt	Humberstone	Bath University Students Union	Community Officer
Nola	Wright	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Representative
Ken	Ayers	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Representative
Clyde	Hunter	Bear Flat Association	Chairman
Nigel	Sherwen	Camden Residents' Association	Chairman
Julie	Platt	Camden Residents' Association	Representative
Adam	Reynolds	Cycle Bath	Chairman
Mike	Arkell	Foxhill Residents Association	Chairman
Nola	Edwards	Foxhill Residents Association	Secretary
Roger	Nunn	Greenway!	Chairman
Ian	Herve	Henrietta Park Association	Secretary
Rachael	Hushon	Lansdown Crescent Association	Representative
Julian	Caldecott	Hensley & Egerton Road Association	Representative
Caroline	Kilner	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Representative
Patrick	Rotheram	Vineyards Residents' Association	Chairman
Liz	Littlewood	Widcombe	Secretary
Jan	Shepley	Widcombe	Representative

In attendance:

David	Beaven	Foxhill Residents Association	Treas / Observer
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Apologies

Sheelagh	Garner	Ainslie's Belvedere & Caroline Place R A	Representative
Pat	Lunt	Bath Bus Users' Group	Chairman
Jordan	Kenny	Bath University Students Union	President
Charles	Draper	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Chairman
Julie	Trollope	Bathwick Estate Residents' Association	FoBRA Soc Sec
Colin	Clark	Bathwick Hill Residents' Association	Representative
Nigel	Websper	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Chairman
John	Rushton	Sydney Buildings Householders Assoc	Representative
Chris	Beezley	Beech Avenue Association	Chairman
Janet	Anderson	Camden Residents' Association	Secretary
Morny	Davison	Catharine Place Residents' Association	Secretary
Mark	O'Sullivan	Greenway!	Representative
Diana	Lockwood	Hensley & Egerton Road Association	Representative
Tom	Marshall	Macaulay Prospect Association	Representative
Joy	Bowker	Marlborough Lane & Buildings Res Assoc	Chairman
Colin	Clarkson-Short	The Royal Crescent Society	Chairman
Paul	Dowling	The Royal Crescent Society	Representative
Stephen	Little	The Royal Crescent Society	Treasurer

Signed Barry Henderson, Secretary deemed accepted 15 Oct 2015